

**MARKET SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM**

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**Report of the Market Supplement Review  
Committee**

**Occupational Therapist**

**March 1, 2013**

## **OBJECTIVE**

The objective of the Saskatchewan Market Supplement Program is to ensure that Saskatchewan health care employers can attract and retain the employees required to provide appropriate health care services to the people of Saskatchewan.

This program is designed to address specific skill shortages by use of a temporary market supplement to attract and/or retain qualified employees. The program is designed to ensure that temporary market supplements respond to valid labour market criteria to address recruitment and/or retention pressures.

## **OVERVIEW**

The Market Supplement Review Committee (MSRC) reviewed updated documentation submitted in the annual review process regarding the market supplement for the Occupational Therapist classification. The initial market supplement report was released by the Market Supplement Review Committee August 6, 2002 and implemented on October 16, 2002. The market supplement for the Occupational Therapist classification was last increased in May 2008 through the market supplement adjudication process. This latest review was requested by the Health Sciences Association of Saskatchewan (HSAS).

There were ten health regions that reported to this analysis on Occupational Therapists. Occupational Therapists are members of HSAS.

Role of an Occupational Therapist:

*Occupational Therapists work collaboratively to enhance clients/patients abilities within environments and communities in which they live and work. Using a holistic and client centered approach, they facilitate improved functional outcomes in areas of self care, productivity and leisure for persons with physical, mental, social or developmental impairments. They may also participate in research, education, evaluation and consultation.*

Qualifications:

*Occupational Therapists require a Masters degree in Science in Occupational Therapy.*

*There are twelve universities in Canada that offer Occupational Therapy programs. In western Canada, there are Occupational Therapy programs at the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta, and the University of Manitoba. There is no program in Saskatchewan.*

*Saskatchewan Health has included Occupational Therapy students as eligible for its bursary program.*

Information regarding budgeted positions and vacancies is provided in the following table:

**Table 1 – Occupational Therapist (Degree and Senior Level) – Budgeted and Vacant Positions (February 2013)**

Health Regions	Number of Budgeted Positions (As of February 2013)		Number of Vacant Positions (As of February 2013)		% Vacancy	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Cypress	2	0	0	0	0	0
Five Hills	4	1	0	0	0	0
Heartland	3	1	0	0	0	0
Kelsey Trail	4	2	1	0	25%	0
Prairie North	8	2	1	1	12.5%	50%
Prince Albert Parkland	9	1	1	0	11.1%	0
Regina Qu'Appelle	47	8	0	0	0	0
Saskatoon	64	27	2	0	3.1%	0
Sun Country	3	2	0	0	0	0
Sunrise	6	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>

## ANALYSIS

The MSRC discussed the Labour Market Criteria as required by the Market Supplement Program framework.

**SERVICE DELIVERY IMPACTS:** *(Employers were asked to provide information that addresses current service delivery impacts resulting from staff shortages, potential staff short term service delivery impacts, potential long term service delivery impacts and options for alternative service delivery models).*

Four health regions reported no service delivery issues related to recruitment and retention, five reported minor issues and one reported moderate issues attributed to temporary vacancies not being filled.

**VACANCY RATE ANALYSIS:** *(Employers were requested to provide information about the frequency and timing of vacancy occurrences [i.e., seasonal vacancies; do the vacancies always follow an event; etc.] and to identify trends that may affect recruitment/retention efforts).*

Health regions have reported five full time vacancies and one part time vacancy. Some employers report that temporary vacancies are difficult to fill.

One urban employer reported over hiring Occupational Therapists as the supply of Occupational Therapists has been greater in the past year.

**Table 2 – Occupational Therapist – Budgeted and Vacant Position Comparison (2002 – 2013)**

Occupational Therapist Classification	Number of Budgeted Positions		Number of Vacant Budgeted Positions		% Vacancy	
	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
<b>2002 Totals</b>	111	32	20	2	18%	6%
<b>2003 Totals</b>	104	39	3	3	2.8%	7.6%
<b>2004 Totals</b>	101	37	0	1	0	2.7%
<b>2005 Totals</b>	97	39	2	2	2%	5.1%
<b>2006 Totals</b>	98	46	6	4	6.1%	8.6%
<b>2007 Totals</b>	106	44	9	4	8.4%	9.0%
<b>2009 Totals</b>	118	52	7	2	5.9%	3.8%
<b>2010 Totals</b>	127	66	7	8	5.5%	12.1%
<b>2011 Totals</b>	135	53	10	9	7.4%	16.9%
<b>2012 Totals</b>	121	47	4	1	3.3%	2.1%
<b>2013 Totals</b>	150	44	5	1	3.3%	2.2%

\*Disclaimer: Data reported in Table 1 and/or Table 2 may be as a result of different employers reporting year to year.

**TURNOVER RATES:** *(Employers were asked to provide local analysis of reasons for leaving and trends that may be emerging. They were also asked to provide annual turnover {loss of employees to other competitor employers} ratio to the existing staff complement {budgeted positions} in the given occupation).*

Of the regions that track and report turnover, the following data is reported:

- Over the past 12 months – 17 as follows; 2 other employment, 1 relocation, 4 domestic reasons, 2 retired, 8 other reasons (not specified).

**RECRUITMENT ISSUE ANALYSIS:** *(Employers were asked to provide information such as length of recruitment times, training investments, licensing issues, supply and demand issues, etc., as well as information that would identify trends that may affect recruitment and/or retention efforts).*

Of the regions that reported vacancies in the past, the following recruitment and retention initiatives were utilized:

- utilizing other classifications i.e. Occupational Therapist Assistants,
- advertising,
- attending career fairs,
- recruitment allowances,
- relocation assistance,
- educational allowances,
- offering Occupational Therapist placements for students.

**SALARY MARKET CONDITIONS:** *(Employers were asked to identify situations where their salary levels are lower than other employers that they would expect to recruit employees from or other employers that recruit their employees. This may be local, provincial, regional, national or international depending on the occupation group and traditional recruitment relationships. Cost of living considerations may or may not be appropriate to factor into market salary comparisons).*

The MSRC reports the following market conditions for Occupational Therapists (Degree):

- Saskatchewan health regions – Maximum \$38.645/hour, 5 steps, Effective April 1, 2012.
- Alberta health regions – Maximum \$46.21/hour, 9 steps. Effective April 1, 2012.
- British Columbia health regions – Maximum \$37.29/hour, 6 steps. Effective April 1, 2012.
- Manitoba health regions – Maximum \$33.656/hour, 6 steps. Effective April 1, 2012.

## **CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Considering the labour market criteria under the provincial framework, the Market Supplement Review Committee makes the following conclusions:

- Health regions have reported either no service delivery issue or minor issues related to recruitment and retention challenges.
- Saskatchewan health regions reported five full time and one part time vacancy.

Having reviewed the information as provided by employers and considering the labour market criteria, the Market Supplement Review Committee recommends maintaining the current market supplement for the Occupational Therapist classification.

## APPENDIX A

### Market Supplement Consideration Request – Occupational Therapists

#### Respondents

1. Cypress Health Region
2. Five Hills Health Region
3. Heartland Health Region
4. Kelsey Trail Health Region
5. Prairie North Health Region
6. Prince Albert Parkland Health Region
7. Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
8. Saskatoon Health Region
9. Sun Country Health Region
10. Sunrise Health Region